

Message Text

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF 2 AP ITEMS RUN WEDNESDAY MORNING,
AUGUST 4:

BOSTON (AP)--

A BLACK WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL HAS CRITICIZED SECSTATE
KISSINGER FOR NOT BEING READY TO EXPLAIN THE STATE DEPT'S
MINORITY HIRING POLICIES TO A CIVIL RIGHTS CONVENTION.

ARTHUR FLETCHER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT FOR URBAN AFFAIRS, CONCEDED
TUESDAY NIGHT THAT KISSINGER HAD BEEN 'LESS THAN PREPARED'
FOR QUESTIONS MONDAY FROM THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE.

KISSINGER WAS BOOED AND HISSED WHEN HE EXPLAINED THE RELA-
TIVELY FEW BLACKS IN HIS DEPT BY SAYING, "IT MAKES NO SENSE
TO APPOINT BLACK PERSONNEL UNLESS THEY MEET ALL THE QUALIF-
ICATIONS."

FLETCHER APPEARED ON A PANEL AT THE CONVENTION THE NEXT NIGHT.

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HE SAID OF KISSINGER, "I THINK HE WAS LESS THAN PREPARED

FOR COMING BEFORE THIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE. IF I HAD BEEN CALLED UPON, I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO HAVE TRIED TO BRIEF HIM.

"I WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO TIE UP ALL THE ELEVATORS. I WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE WHOLE FLOOR AND TO HAVE FOLKS DISGUSTED AND ANGRY BEFORE YOU EVER OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND CONSEQUENTLY LOSE THEM WHEN YOU DO.

"AND I WOULD HAVE ADVISED HIM, ABOVE ALL, THAT WHEN COMING BEFORE THIS ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND MORE EMPLOYMENT, THAT, FOR GOD'S SAKE, KNOW HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS YOU'VE GOT EMPLOYED IN YOUR SHOP. I WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE HIM TO KNOW WHO'S THERE, WHY THEY'RE THERE, WHAT THEY ARE DOING, WHEN THEY ARE DOING IT AND HOW MUCH POWER THEY HAVE TO DO IT WITH."

FLETCHER'S COMMENTS DREW CHEERS FROM THE LARGELY BLACK AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE.

WASHINGTON (AP) (BY GEORGE GEDDA)---

THE STATE DEPT, RESPONDING TO HOSTILE BLACK REACTION TO SECSTATE KISSINGER, SAYS AN ACCELERATED EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO RECRUIT BLACKS AND APPOINT THEM TO HIGH POSTS

THE DEPT SAID IT HAS UNDERTAKEN A MAJOR EFFORT TO RECRUIT BLACKS AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS THROUGH PAID AND UNPAID RADIO ADVERTISING, RECRUITMENT TEAMS AND MAILINGS TO BLACK ORGANIZATIONS.

THE DEPT'S STATEMENT WAS ISSUED TUESDAY AFTER KISSINGER DREW BOOS, HISSES AND DERISIVE LAUGHTER MONDAY NIGHT WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO EXPLAIN THE DEPT'S MINORITY HIRING POLICY BEFORE A CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE IN BOSTON.

ASKED WHY THERE ARE FEWER BLACKS IN THE STATE DEPT THAN IN SOME OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, KISSINGER SAID, "THE REQUIRE-
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MENTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE STATE DEPT ARE GENERALLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN THEY ARE FOR OTHER AGENCIES. IT SERVES NOBODY'S PURPOSE TO APPOINT BLACK PERSONNEL UNLESS THEY FULFILL ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS."

THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE CONTINUED WHEN KISSINGER SAID THAT IN THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADORS, "WE DON'T ASK WHETHER THEY'RE BLACK OR WHITE."

KISSINGER VOWED TO "GIVE PREFERENCE TO BLACK PERSONNEL WHEREVER POSSIBLE."

THE DEPT'S TUESDAY STATEMENT SAID THERE ARE SIX BLACKS WHO ARE NOW OR SOON WILL BE SERVING AS US AMBASSADORS, REPRESENTING ALMOST 25 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BLACKS IN SUCH POSTS SINCE 1949. ALL SIX ARE ASSIGNED TO LATIN AMERICA OR AFRICA.

THE NUMBER OF BLACK FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS WAS LISTED AT 4.3 PER CENT OF THE 5,799 TOTAL.

ONE OFFICIAL SAID HE BELIEVES THIS RELATIVELY LOW TOTAL MAY REFLECT THE DESIRE OF MANY BLACKS TO WORK IN THE DOMESTIC RATHER THAN IN THE FOREIGN AREA.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPT'S STATEMENT, THE BLACK RECRUITMENT PROGRAM INCLUDED AN ADVERTISEMENT LAST YEAR IN EBONY MAGAZINE, WHICH BROUGHT 333 RESPONSES, AND A PRESS RELEASE SENT TO 256 BLACK NEWSPAPERS ADVERTISING A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER EXAMINATION.

IN ADDITION, IT SAID THE 60-SECOND RADIO SPOT IS BEING DEVELOPED FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH RADIO STATIONS WITH A BLACK AUDIENCE.

IT ADDED THAT RECRUITMENT TEAMS VISITED 19 BLACK COLLEGES LAST YEAR AND RECRUITMENT LETTERS WERE SENT TO 1,200 COLLEGES STRESSING THE DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN HIRING OFFICERS FROM MINORITY GROUPS.

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